
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 466

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR PHYSICIANS.

SUMMARY:

This bill reduces the frequency with which physicians must take mandatory topics for continuing medical education (CME), and adds behavioral health to the list of such topics. The mandatory topics currently include infectious diseases, risk management, sexual assault, domestic violence, and cultural competency.

Under current law, physicians must take at least one contact hour (50 minutes) of CME in each mandatory topic every two years. The bill instead requires one contact hour in each such topic during the first renewal period for which CME is required (the second license renewal), and once every six years after that.

The bill makes a corresponding change by requiring physicians to retain CME attendance records or certificates of completion for at least six years, rather than three years.

By law, physicians applying for license renewal must have completed at least 50 contact hours of CME during the previous 24 months. Physicians are exempt from CME requirements during their first license renewal.

Because the bill applies to current registration periods, it appears that a physician nearing the end of his or her first CME cycle when the bill takes effect would have to comply with the new behavioral health requirement during that cycle (e.g., a physician whose second license renewal period was set to expire on August 1 would have a month to complete one contact hour in behavioral health).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (04/02/2013)